

Fleet "Hides" As Planes Seek To "Destroy"

Great Torpedoes Carried by Aircraft in Maneuvers With Ships Off the Virginia Coast Today

May Decide Navy Policy

Experiments Are First and Most Important of Kind Attempted by America

Special Dispatch to The Tribune
NORFOLK, Va., Sept. 26. — Thirty naval ships, including twenty destroyers and four battleships, are somewhere off the Virginia coast to-night endeavoring to find a place where they can hide from a squadron of seaplanes which will fly from Norfolk to-morrow upon "destroying" them.

The aerial fleet, officially known as the flying torpedo squadron, is scheduled to leave the Hampton Roads naval base early to-morrow morning. It is to find the sea fighters and "destroy" them with torpedoes. The torpedo squadron expects to find the ships, fire torpedoes at them, and be back at the naval base within two hours. It hopes to pick up the fleet about sixty-five miles off the Virginia Capes. The sea fleet, however, may reverse matters and succeed in concealing itself so completely that the aerial attackers will not be able to find it at all.

Officials Watch Maneuvers
Admiral R. E. Conzitz, chief of operations; Rear Admiral William Moffett, chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics; and Rear Admiral C. B. McVey, chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, are among important naval officials who will witness the game of hide and seek and the "torpedoing" of the fleet if the aerial squadron succeeds in finding the ships.

All of the officials declare the experiments are the first and the most important of the kind ever attempted by the United States Navy. The aerial torpedo squadron was formed about a year ago and is the only air fleet of its kind in the world.

The four battleships which are to be attacked are the Arkansas, Wyoming, North Dakota and Delaware. The torpedo plane attack is preliminary to regular target practice on the Southern drill grounds, and the ships probably will be kept busy for the next two weeks. The planes then are scheduled to participate in machine gun practice in Chesapeake Bay.

The outcome of the maneuvers to-morrow probably will fix the navy's policy in regard to the scale upon which further experimentation with torpedo planes will be carried on, and result directly in a decision as to how

many of the new Douglas-Davis type of plane are to be constructed.

While the torpedo planes to be used to-morrow are more or less makeshifts, the Douglas-Davis type now being developed embodies the latest ideas of American and foreign designers in regard to aircraft for this purpose. The aviators, however, are eager that it be understood that torpedo planes are in the experimental stage, and that the results which may be attained to-morrow will be only an indication of what may be done with better equipment.

The weight of the aircraft is so great that the aviators will have difficulty in taking off, and in the air the planes seem almost to stagger. With this heavy burden the gasoline supply must be reduced to a minimum, and most of the attacking squadron probably will not have fuel sufficient for a flight of more than 150 miles when it leaves the air station.

Weeks Finds Army Spirit Menaced by Economy Program

Restoration to 13,000 Officers and 150,000 Men Essential to Check Deterioration, He Will Insist

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 (By The Associated Press).—Army appropriation estimates for the next fiscal year call for the present strength of 12,000 officers and 125,000 enlisted men will be submitted to the budget conference this week, with the assertion of Secretary Weeks and his advisers that progressive deterioration in the military establishment will continue unless the regulars are restored to the strength of 13,000 officers and 150,000 men asked for last year.

Department officials are concerned over reports from corps area headquarters as to the effects of the slash made by Congress, now becoming apparent. Some officers declare the War Department may be compelled to ask to be relieved of some of its missions if more adequate provision for the work cannot be made.

It is held that if these civilian elements are to be made living parts of the army as planned, ready for duty in a war emergency, the annual camps must be held on a greater scale than was possible this year. That, it is said, is where the appropriation shoe pinches.

No authorized statement of the War Department's attitude has been made available. It is known, however, that a special committee of general officers recently completed a review of the legislative program. Out of that conference, as well as from reports of corps area commanders, has come a distinct feeling among the highest army officials that the whole military establishment is on the downward grade and that steps must be taken immediately to check this movement. It may be that a personal inspection of every army center by General Pershing or his chief aids will be necessary to map out a course of action.

Maria Kousnezoff to Show Us Art of Voice and Toes

Soprano Decorated by Czar, Dancer of Spanish Folk Steps, She Yearns for Ancient Greece, Where Women Cultivated Physique and Love

Member of Bakst Revue



Maria Kousnezoff, heralded as another marvel of Russia, with the two arts of singing and dancing, scorns the modern feminist and worships the women of classic antiquity.

Bringing with her a series of Bakst costumes, Russian puppets, Spanish shawls and quite the largest and most gorgeous jeweled combs that have been seen on the stage here, Maria Kousnezoff, better known as "Maroussia" by her public, has come to show us the dance Castilian and to let us hear the madrigal voice of Russia.

Vraiment! She is the beloved soprano of her native country. She and Chaliapin, alone of Russian artists, have received a diamond decoration for their art from the late Czar. Half in fluent French, half with her eyes and rapid gestures, she told her story at the Hotel Ambassador yesterday. Spanish in appearance, Russian by birth and temperament, her black hair sweeps smoothly back from an ivory skin, and her eyes, huge and dark and glittering, laugh and are sad in turn. She is a vivid, graceful figure, full of coquetry, dance and song. And she doesn't think the modern woman stards a show against the femininity of ancient Greece.

It was then that women were beautiful, she believes, when they had time to study physical development and were the beloved of men. The taxi-chasing feminist and flapper—ugh! Madame likes them not.

"If I could have my choice I should have preferred to live in ancient Greece when the cultivation of the physique was in vogue," she said. "Now one has not time to go in for an extensive study of this kind. Life is so busy. One is always dashing around. There is never time to attend to one's personal appearance beyond the ordinary requirements of the well groomed woman. I consider the ancient type of women much superior to the woman of to-day. When a woman is allowed to work like a man, I'm afraid she gets the habit. It is probably true, though, that the modern woman because of her mental development and her desire to make her own way, is better able to rule her husband."

Has Quick Retort
"Why doesn't she manage to hold him then?" asked a disillusioned interviewer.

"Probably because she doesn't care to," flashed back the prima donna.

Madame Kousnezoff is enthusiastic about American women, notwithstanding she thinks they have "chic," elegance, brains and personality. She admires the way they dress, and carry themselves in the street. Her own costume yesterday was a Parisian creation of fine white serge with black and blue pinpoints and a deep black collar of

Persian lamb. The skirt was long and of fine accordion pleating. She is a radical in dress, for she thinks that in that one expresses one's own personality. She set all Paris talking some years ago when she sang Marguerite in "Faust" in a blue dress. Paris had been accustomed to a white Marguerite and was startled at the innovation.

Madame Kousnezoff is sad about her Russia.

"Talk to me of the theater, of the coqueries of women, but not of politics," she begged. "We can leave that to men."

During the greater part of the last four years she has been in Spain studying dancing. She is to appear at the

Booth Theater next week with forty compatriot artists in a repertory that will deal with the tragedy of Russia during the revolution. There will be a mixture of humor and pathos in the performance. The action in a pantomime by Bakst will cover the period of the revolution. The stage direction will be by Boleslawsky, of the Moscow Art Theater. She will sing and introduce some new Spanish dances in addition.

Of Artist Family
Madame was trained at the Imperial Academy in Petrograd, where one has to study all the arts to qualify. She is a niece of Metchnikoff, of the Académie des Beaux Arts, and a daughter of a professor of poetry in Petrograd. She thinks that the American stage is now forty years ahead of the European stage both in its art and its mechanism.

Madame thinks the morbid strain in Russian art comes from the north. The people of the south are gay and lively, while the north is melancholy. It is exactly the same in Spain, she says, where the dancing of Madrid is entirely different from that of Seville. She thinks that Americans have not seen the best type of Spanish dancing, and she wants to give it to them.

Marie, Madame's dog, has succumbed to American cuisine and is laid up with acute indigestion.

Reds' Seized Data Show Plans to Raid A. F. of L.

Code Deciphered in Michigan Bares Campaign Within Unions and Ku-Klux Klan

ST. JOSEPH, Mich., Sept. 26 (By The Associated Press).—Papers seized in the recent raid on a Communist meeting in the woods near Bridgman detailed minutely the plans to work within the American Federation of Labor, it was learned here today from authorities at work deciphering the code.

The prisoners were to have received preliminary arraignment to-day under the Michigan anti-syndicalist law, but on motion of Sybrant Wessellus, of Grand Rapids, representing all of them except William Z. Foster, the formality went over to October 17.

The seized papers, it was learned, besides showing plans to work inside the Federation, revealed that the Communists expected to be active in sixteen railroad unions and various other organizations, including the Ku-Klux Klan.

A receipt for dues paid to the Klan was among the papers found in the

pockets of William F. Dunn, of New York City, one of those arrested at Bridgman. Dunn, who was a candidate for Governor of New York on the Workers' party ticket, is a former labor editor of Butte, Mont. He visited Russia in 1920, and was reported to have been arrested there but later was released.

Incendiaries Blamed by Argonaut Mine Official

JACKSON, Calif., Sept. 26. — The Argonaut mine fire, which cost the lives of forty-seven men, was of incendiary origin, in the opinion of Ernest A. Stent, vice-president of the Argonaut Mining Company. In a statement to press representatives to-night, he declared that the fact that the fire gained such rapid headway led him to believe that it was the work of incendiaries.

The natural conditions in the mine, he said, were not such as to cause sudden bursts of flame. If the fire had started accidentally, he said, surely it would have been detected before it had spread beyond control.

The mine official's statement came at the end of the day's inquest into the death of the entombed workers and after a statement of District Attorney Netrich, in charge of the state's inquiry, that the operating company "had placed no adequate fire fighting apparatus in the mine."

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